

Appl. No. 08/879,827  
Amdt. dated July 28, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2004

PATENT

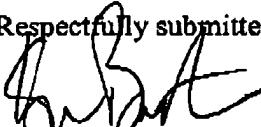
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-25, 27-35, 37, 40, 45, 47-58, 60-71, 73-84 and 86-109 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner helpfully pointed out that claims 46, 59, 72 and 85 are of improper dependent form for being outside the scope of the corresponding independent claims. Since claims of the same scope as these claims has issued in parent patents and to expedite prosecution, these claims have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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